

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: TITO'S OSIJEK SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: IN SURPRISE SPEECH CARRIED LIVE ON NATIONAL RADIO AND TV SEPTEMBER 14 DURING VISIT TO OSIJEK, TITO HAILED SUCCESSES OF NON-ALIGNMENT, EULOGIZED NEW SOCIALIST MARTYR ALLENDE, WHO HE SAID WAS ASSASSINATED BY GENERAL WITH COLLABORATION OF FORCES OF REACTION AND IMPERIALISM, CALLED FOR INTERNAL UNITY TO PRESERVE YUGOSLAV PROMINENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AREA, AND WOULD UP WITH APPEAL FOR VIGILANCE BY ALL CITIZENS AGAINST DANGERS FROM OUTSIDE. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH PRESS HAD ANNOUNCED TITO VISIT TO OSIJEK, CROATIA, WHICH HE SOMETIMES USES AS BASE FOR HUNTING TRIPS, AND HIS INTENTION TO GIVE SHORT SPEECH, MORNING RADIO PROGRAMS INTERRUPTED WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT HE WOULD GIVE MAJOR SPEECH OF NATIONAL INTEREST WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED LIVE ON NATIONAL RADIO AND TV. CROWD ESTIMATED AT 50,000 HAD GATHERED IN TOWN SQUARE. MME BROZ, DOLANC AND SQUADRON OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS PRESENT. SPEECH INTRODUCED WITH MARTIAL MUSIC AND LONG, LAUDATORY INTRODUCTION BY LOCAL PARTY OFFICIAL.

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3. TITO BEGAN WITH RAMBLING RUNDOWNS OF SUCCESSES OF NON-ALIGNMENT, WHICH HE CREDITED WITH INFLUENCING END OF COLD WAR AND INITIATING ERA OF DETENTE. HE CITED RECOGNITION OF CAMBODIA, 95 PERCENT OF WHOSE TERRITORY UNDER CONTROL OF "LIBERATION FORCES" HE SAID, AS ONE OF SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF BIG ACHIEVEMENTS OF NON-ALIGNMENT. CONTINUING DOWN LIST OF COUNTRIES HE STUMBLED WHEN HE TRIED TO CALL ONE BY NAME, PAUSED, SAID HE HAD FORGOTTEN, GOT HIS CUE, THEN CAME BACK ON MIKE AND SAID "BANGLADESH". CROWD APPLAUDED GOOD NATUREDLY.

4. REFERRING TO COUP IN CHILE, TITO SAID NON-ALIGNED COMMUNITY HAD LOST MEMBER TO EFFORTS OF OBSCURE REACTIONARY FORCES AND IMPERIALISTS. HIS VOICE CRACKING WITH EMOTION, HE ASSERTED THAT ALLENDE HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED BY GENERALS. TITO SAID ALLENDE WILL CONTINUE AS SYMBOL OF MOVEMENTS IN STRUGGLE FOR POPULAR RIGHTS. HE CHARACTERIZED COUP AND "ASSASSINATION" AS IMPERIALISTIC ANSWER TO ALGIERS CONFERENCE.

5. STATING THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS GAIN ENORMOUS REPUTATION IN WORLD THROUGH HER FOREIGN POLICY, TITO SAID MAINTENANCE OF POSITION REQUIRED INTERNAL UNITY. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NATIONALITIES AND GROUPS MUST BE PUT ASIDE AND EFFORTS TO SOW DISCORD MUST BE OPPOSED. IN THIS TRUGGLE, INTERNAL SECURITY IS INDISPENSABLE. EACH CITIZEN MUST BE VIGILANT. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT YUGOSLAVIA CAN ONLY SURVIVE AS A WHOLE.

6. COMMENT: TITO SPOKE IN RAMBLING, EXTEMPORANEOUS FASHION AND ADMITTED AT ONE POINT HE HAD NOT COME PREPARED TO MAKE MAJOR SPEECH. DELIVERY WAS AT TIMES SLIGHTLY AGITATED, AT OTHERS EMOTIONAL, AS WHEN HE SPOKE OF ALLENDE'S DEATH. NEITHER MAIN CONTENT NOR PLACE CHOSEN FOR ADDRESS SEEMS SURPRISING TO US; OSIJEK AREA IS MELTING POT OF VARIOUS YUGOSLAV NATIONALITIES. AS IN PAST (1968) HE CHOSE IT AS FORUM FOR CALL FOR NATIONAL UNITY. CROWD WAS LARGE AND RECEPTIVE, SEVERAL TIME BREAKING INTO DELIVERY WITH APPLAUSE AND CHANTING. WHEN HE COULDN'T REMEMBER BANGLADESH, CROWD'S REATION WAS WAR AND INDULGENT.
TOON

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